

Fairfield, Illinois
Council Chambers, City Hall
Regular Meeting, 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Meeting called to order by Mayor Mike Dreith at 6:00 P.M.

Prayer led by Mayor Dreith followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

City Clerk Tina Hutchcraft called the roll:

Mayor: Mike Dreith
City Clerk: Tina Hutchcraft
City Attorney: Darrin Rice
Aldermen: Dewey Eckleberry; Brett Coale; Clifford Reeve; Tyler Lampley; Eugene McGill;
Jerry Lisenbee; Terry Stahl; Gary Moore

Also Present: Ken Otey, WFIW Radio; Tom Mathews, Wayne County Press; Richie Fulkerson, Police Chief; Keith Colclasure, Assistant Police Chief; Andrew Miller, Fire Chief; Kevin Leonard, Water Distribution; Kayla Warren; Dian Downs; DiElle Rogers; Michelle Smith; Roy Finley; Shelia Titzer; Flo Simpson; and other citizens from the community.

The minutes of the meeting of December 14, 2021, agendas and bills of December 28, 2021 and January 11, 2022 were sent out to those entitled to receive them. Mayor Dreith asked for approval of the minutes for the December 14, 2021 meeting. Motion by Alderman Stahl, seconded by Alderman Lampley to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 14, 2021. Vote yes: Coale; Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill; Moore; Reeve; Stahl
Vote no: none
Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Mayor Dreith asked if there were any corrections or objections to the bills for the December 28, 2021 and January 11, 2022 meeting. Motion by Alderman Eckleberry, seconded by Alderman Reeve to approve the bills and drafts be drawn on the several funds for their respective amounts. Vote yes: Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill; Moore; Reeve; Stahl; Coale
Vote no: none
Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Public Comments – Shelia Titzer addressed Chief Fulkerson and Chief Colclasure asking them why Chief Fulkerson did not attend the funeral of Sean Riley and why her son, Justin Titzer wasn't allowed to attend in uniform or walk in the procession with the Police Department. She asked if it was because Titzer is currently on administrative leave and Mayor Dreith reminded her that this was a public comment section, and no one is obligated to answer questions. She then asked the Mayor if he was still satisfied with the his appointments of the Police Chief and the Assistant Police Chief. Mayor Dreith stated that he was.

Public Comments – Roy Finley addressed the Council and said he believes there was a lack of investigation and prosecution on the part of the Police Department and the State’s Attorney’s office concerning issues that he had with another individual. He feels like he can’t get them to do anything on his behalf.

Presentation of FY 2021 Audit – Michelle Smith, Kemper CPA, presented the audit FY 2021. She stated our audit this year is very comparable to last year’s audit. She mentioned some recommendations for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency that was addressed in the audit.

Motor Fuel Tax Compliance Review Report – City Clerk Tina Hutchcraft reported to the Council that we have received the Motor Fuel Tax Compliance Review report showing the receipts and disbursements for January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The records of the City are in agreement with the records maintained by the Department of Transportation.

Ordinance No. 22-0111-275/Regulation of Video Gaming – State Statute previously capped the video gaming terminal fees at \$25 per terminal per year for non-home rule communities. A new law now allows non-home rule communities to impose an annual fee of \$250 per machine. This ordinance states that we will begin imposing this new fee with the changes going in to effect May 1, 2022. A motion was made by Alderman Lampley, seconded by Alderman Stahl to approve Ordinance No. 22-0111-275 regulating video gaming within the City of Fairfield.

Vote yes: Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill; Moore; Reeve; Stahl; Coale; Eckleberry

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried and Ordinance No. 22-0111-275 approved and adopted.

Ordinance Concerning the Electric Utility and Customer Utility Connection Fees – This ordinance is being tabled because changes are needed before approval.

Resolution Authorizing a Lease Agreement with Wayne-White Electric – Wayne-White Electric would like to lease our electric distribution building. They will pay \$1,000 per month and pay the utilities. Attorney Rice stated that he will need to make some changes to the actual agreement such as the City will maintain the insurance on the facility. The property is currently tax exempt but since we will be receiving lease payments it will no longer qualify for tax exemption. The estimate for the property tax is \$4,277. A motion was made by Alderman Lampley, seconded by Alderman Reeve to authorize the lease agreement with Wayne-White Electric and to authorize Attorney Rice to make the necessary changes to the agreement.

Vote yes: McGill; Reeve; Stahl; Coale; Lampley; Lisenbee

Vote no: Eckleberry

Abstain: Moore

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried and Resolution No. 22-0111-275 approved and adopted.

SMILE Award – Mayor Dreith recognized Gayla Grote and her family with his quarterly SMILE Award. They decorate their home during holidays bringing in hundreds of visitors to the city. Last Halloween they hosted over 2,000 trick or treaters and they spend many hours preparing for the event. He thanked them for their efforts and appreciates what they do to benefit our community. SMILE stands for Shines, Motivates, Inspires, Leads and Excels.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dreith told the Council the Humane Society sent a new contract for services last month asking for a 110% increase or \$3,100 a month and it stated they would still not take after hours calls or assist with bite dogs. We currently pay \$1,500. After consulting with the police committee chairman, Mayor Dreith contacted their rep and said we would be seeking another provider. Yesterday he sent notice to them that we are ending our contract. Mayor Dreith also gave an update on the proposed business district. The full Mayor's report is attached.

Miscellaneous – Alderman McGill thanked David Mills for serving as the Chaplain for the Police Department for many years.

Miscellaneous – Alderman Gary Moore questioned the residency of Chief Fulkerson and said city employees are required to establish residency within certain boundaries that have been set forth within six months. Mayor Dreith stated that he had met the requirements. Mayor Dreith, Alderman Moore and Alderman Stahl disagreed on the definition of residency and Alderman Moore then asked to go into Executive Session.

Executive Session – Alderman Moore made a motion, seconded by Alderman Eckleberry to go into Executive Session to discuss Section 2(c)(21) – discuss minutes of closed session meetings and Section 2(c)(1) – the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline of specific employees of the public body.

Vote yes: Moore; Reeve; Stahl; Coale; Eckleberry; Lampley; Lisenbee; McGill

Vote no: none

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried.

Return to Regular Session – Alderman Lampley made a motion, seconded by Alderman Moore to return to regular session.

Vote yes: Eckleberry; Reeve; Lampley; McGill; Lisenbee; Stahl; Moore

Vote no: none

Absent: Coale

Mayor Dreith declared motion carried and Council returned to regular session at 7:39 p.m.

Adjourn Meeting – Motion by Alderman McGill, seconded by Alderman Lisenbee to adjourn the meeting.

Vote yes: 7

Vote no: 0

Absent: 1

Mayor Dreith declared meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Tina Hutchcraft, City Clerk

Mike Dreith, Mayor